

REFORM

Mr. Jenkins
Social Sciences
“Antebellum Age”

Note: “In 1860, in the nation of thirty-one and one-half million, over a third of the total population was in the South. But, of the four million white foreign-born in the nation as a whole, over eighty-five per cent lived north of the Mason-Dixon Line... Refugees from serfdom did not want to compete with slaves... Good cheap farmland, free employment, and the opportunity to rise in the world were all scarcer in the South than in the expanding North and West.

Contemplate the above information. What is being discussed that would indicate why issues were viewed differently in the mid 1800s than we may see them today?

“[Others worked] to relieve all kinds of misfortune... Dr. Samuel Gridley Howe set out to improve the education of the blind... His most spectacular achievement was educating the deaf-blind child, Laura Dewey Bridgman. She entered his school just before she was eight; within a year he had put her in communication with the world and soon he proved for the first time that the deaf-blind were not necessarily defective in intelligence. Later Laura herself occasionally taught other deaf-blind students...” (From The Americans: The National Experience)

Assignment:

How have reform movements shaped our American Character?

Reformers: Charles Grandison Finney, Henry David Thoreau, Horace Mann, Dorothea Dix, William Ellery Channing, Richard Bethel, Ralph Waldo Emerson, George Ripley, William Lloyd Garrison, David Walker, Frederick Douglass, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Lucretia Mott, Sarah and Angelina Grimké, Mary C. Vaughan, Emma Willard, Prudence Crandall, Lyman Beecher, Wendell Phillips, George Ripley, Dr. Sylvester Graham and Sojourner Truth

Pair each of these names with their area of reform. Complete further research on an assigned reformer to better understand the role played in history. Create a power point discussing the role of this person and the reform associated with them by including information addressing each of the following questions:

- What criticism of American society did the individual have?
- What methods did the person use to improve American life?
- What success did the individual have in promoting reform?
- What detail(s) of the person's work made him or her an interesting historical figure?
- To what extent was the reformer obsessed with achieving an impractical goal through fanatical or impractical means?
- What lasting impact did the person's reform have on American Society?

Speculate about what reforms this person would call for today in his or her field. Provide an explanation for your conclusions in the power point.

Work will be presented to the class.

Have your work saved to the student server before class begins on the Due Date!!

Due: Tuesday, December 3, 2013